

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION

16

May 20, 2003

**FROM:** ED KIECZYKOWSKI, County Librarian  
County Library

**SUBJECT:** "LITE YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL" GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

**RECOMMENDATION:** Ratify authorization by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for County Library to submit a grant application to the California State Library in the amount of \$286,870 for expansion and augmentation of literacy and school-readiness programs to target adult learners and the parents of children currently using County Library's various literacy programs.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The California State Library is offering a grant opportunity as part six of its Library Services Technology Act to expand existing literacy, technology, or bilingual programs aimed at children (ages 0 to 5 years) to include additional programming for bilingual adults and parents with limited English proficiency. The Literacy, Information, Technology and Education (LITE) Your Way to School program will assist this target group in developing and enhancing emerging literacy and school readiness skills in children and help adults play a more active role in their children's academic success. The grant funds will be used to develop and coordinate the expansion of existing County Library programs to include more bilingual training in basic computer skills and Internet use, provide additional workstations to allow more participants, and offer evening and weekend classes for parents/caregivers.

County Library's current scope of related services includes the following: (1) Four LITE Centers at the Apple Valley (including LITE Mobile), Big Bear, Montclair, and Yucca Valley branch libraries that primarily focus on providing literacy and school-readiness skills services to children 0 to 5 years of age and their parents/caregivers; (2) Two ELLI [English Language Literacy Intensive] programs at Apple Valley and Montclair that focus on identified students K-12 with limited English proficiency; and (3) One FTLC [Family Technology and Learning Center] at Montclair offering technology access and bilingual assistance to families with students in grades 3-12. Each of these programs offers one or more of these valuable services: literacy assistance, school-readiness training, technology/Internet access, computer training, or bilingual assistance. Grant funds under the LITE Your Way to School program will provide additional funding to ensure that services under these existing programs are available to those in the target groups at the Apple Valley, Big Bear, Montclair, and Yucca Valley branch libraries.

Due to the limited period of time to complete the application, staff was unable to finish in time to seek Board approval for submission to the State. Consequently, on May 5, 2003 the Chairman of the Board provided County Library with authorization to submit the application prior to the May 7, 2003 deadline. Approval of this recommendation will ratify the Chairman's action in this regard.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

16

**“LITE YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL” GRANT APPLICATION**  
**May 20, 2003**  
**Page 2 of 2**

If the grant application is successful, County Library will return to the Board for approval to accept these funds in accordance with County Policy.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item was reviewed by County Counsel (Deputy County Counsel Dawn Stafford) on May 5, 2003 and the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on May 12, 2003.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** If the application is approved, this grant would provide funding in the amount of \$286,870 for use in expanding existing literacy and school-readiness programs at various County branch libraries. In addition, First Five of San Bernardino (previously Children & Families Commission) has already provided \$78,922 in equipment and supplies for the LITE Your Way To School Program. Also, County Library has included \$104,291 of in-kind costs in its FY 2003-04 budget for this program. If grant funding cannot be maintained in subsequent years, this program will be phased out and other literacy programs will be scaled back to current levels.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action based on the demonstrated need to continue providing services to the target group and the financial gain of using outside funding sources to fill this need.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (S):** 1st, 3rd, & 4th.

**PRESENTER:** Ed Kieczkowski, 387-5721.